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familiar terms of syntax. It appears that they have in some cases gone to the extreme of disregarding the changes made even in grammars which are commonly regarded as conservative, and it is to be feared that for many teachers the value of the book is lessened by this fact.

The notes on the selections for sight-reading seem appropriate for their purpose. The translation of *iacturis* by "sacrifice" on p. 148 is rather awkward. The illustrative sentences used in the introduction are apparently taken from a different text from that on which the edition is based. The map on p. 64 does not agree with the text, but the editors have company in this oversight.

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*Deutsches Lese- und Redebuch.* VON PICHON-SÄTTLER. Freiburg: J. Bielefeld, 1910. Pp. 150. M. 2.00.

*Im deutschen Reich. Handbuch der deutschen Umgangssprache.* VON O. LEOPOLD. Freiburg: J. Bielefeld, 1910. Pp. 260. M. 2.50.

*Deutsche Taschengrammatik.* VON A. KELLER. Freiburg: J. Bielefeld, 1910. Pp. 48. M. 1.00.

*Deutscher Briefsteller. Leitfaden der deutschen Privat- und Handelskorrespondenz.* VON O. LEOPOLD. Freiburg: J. Bielefeld, 1910. Pp. 136. M. 1.50.

These books form a very practical and efficient course in the acquisition of the German language by the so-called "direct" method. Pichon-Sättler's *Deutsches Lese- und Redebuch* is intended for beginners in German. It begins with the easiest and simplest words and constructions, which are accompanied by frequent illustrations. The teacher explains everything in German, with the help of the illustrations, and the student is thus brought into direct contact with the German vernacular, without the intermediate use of his native tongue. It goes without saying that such a book can be used by students of different languages and nationalities. The various lessons are based upon the most common objects of our daily experiences and activities, and are interesting and attractive to the student. One who has finished the book has acquired a good working knowledge of German.

The three other books could be used in sequence to Pichon-Sättler. *Im deutschen Reich* is an interesting and practical reader based upon life and customs in Germany, the *Deutscher Briefsteller* teaches how to write private and business letters, and the *Taschengrammatik* is a handy little reference grammar. It is highly desirable that this publishing house should add a condensed German dictionary based on the same principle of teaching a language in the language itself. The little French dictionary of Larousse could be used as a model.

The direct method of teaching modern languages has been highly successful in the so-called "reformed" schools in Germany, and its value has been proved beyond a shade of doubt for courses where continuity of study and efficiency of

instruction permit its introduction. It is highly desirable that books like those mentioned above should be given a fair trial by American teachers.

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*Essentials of Biology, Presented in Problems.* By GEORGE WILLIAM HUNTER.  
New York: American Book Co., 1911. Pp. 448. \$1.25.

The author of this book has made "an attempt to drive home by repetition, and from many points of view, some of the important principles of physiological biology." The biological standpoint is taken throughout, and although the data are presented in the three more or less definite divisions, botany, zoölogy, and physiology, these sub-sciences are not sharply marked off from one another, and the student therefore really studies biology, and not botany, zoölogy, or human physiology. The plan is good and well carried out. After a statement of the importance of biology as a study, the environment of living things and the functions and composition of living things are explained. Chaps. iv to xiii (150 pages) deal with plants. Flowers, fruits, seeds, roots, stems, leaves, forests, reproduction, adaptation, and economic relations are some of the topics. A discussion of the relations of plants to animals is followed by the zoölogical part of the book (140 pages) beginning with the protozoa and ending with man as a type of the mammalia. The chapters devoted to human physiology (107 pages) contain a discussion of foods and dietaries, digestion, absorption, circulation, respiration, excretion, the nervous system, the sense-organs, and health and disease.

The physiological side of biology is strictly adhered to in every chapter, and common species of plants and animals of economic importance are emphasized. The various topics are introduced by special problems from Sharpe's *Laboratory Manual*. These are to be worked out in the laboratory. The text is prepared so as to clear up and fix the ideas gained by the laboratory work and to give a broader aspect to the subject. A list of reference books is appended to each chapter. The book is well supplied with good figures, but they are not numbered and are not referred to in the text. Perhaps no text is without errors, and this volume is no exception to the rule; but the errors noted by the reviewer are of minor importance.

*A Laboratory Manual for the Solution of Problems in Biology.* By RICHARD W. SHARPE. New York: American Book Co., 1911. Pp. 352. \$0.75.

This laboratory manual was written to accompany Hunter's *Essentials of Biology*. Directions for the solution of fifty-six problems are given. These problems are grouped under the following heads: the nature and needs of living matter (5 problems), physiological processes and adaptations in plants (16 problems), the biological interrelations of plants and animals (3 problems), the physiological unit and division of labor (2 problems), some reactions and adaptations among animals (3 problems), the most successful animals and insects, and their relation to man (3 problems), the biological relations of some aquatic forms of life (4 problems), the study of the frog as an introduction to man (2 problems), birds in their relation to man (2 problems), the human body as a machine (1 problem), foods and dietaries (3 problems), adaptations for digestion, circulation,